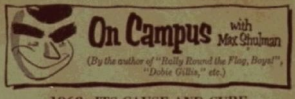

1968: ITS CAUSE AND CURE

Are you still writing "1967" on your papers and letters? I'll bet you are, you scamp! But I am not one to be harsh with those who forgot we are in a new year, for I myself have long been guilty of the same lapse. In fact, in my senior year at college, I wrote 1873 on my papers until nearly November of 1874! (It turned out, incidentally, not to be such a serious error because, as we all know, 1874 was later repealed by President Chester A. Arthur in a fit of pique over the Black Tom Explosion. And, as we all know, Mr. Arthur later came to regret his hasty action. Who does not recall that famous meeting between Mr. Arthur and Louis Napoleon when Mr. Arthur said, "Lou, I wish I hadn't of repealed 1874!" Whereupon the French emperor made his immortal rejoinder, "*Tipi que nous et tyler tu*". Well sir, they had many a good laugh about that, as you can imagine.)

But I digress. How can we remember to write 1968 on our papers and letters? Well sir, the best way is to find something memorable about 1968, something unique to fix it firmly in your mind. Happily, this is very simple because, as we all know, 1968 is the first year in history that is divisible by 2, by 5, and by 7. Take a pencil and try it: 1968 divided by 2 is 984; 1968 divided by 5 is 393⅖; 1968 divided by 7 is 281⅛. This mathematical curiosity will not occur again until the year 2079, but we will all be so busy then celebrating the Chester A. Arthur bi-centenerary that we will scarcely have time to be writing papers and letters and like that.

Another clever little trick to fix the year 1968 in your mind is to remember that 1968 spelled backwards is 8691. "Year" spelled backwards is "raey." "Personna" spelled backwards is "Annosrep." I mention Personna because I am paid to write this column by the makers of Personna Super Stainless Steel Blades, and they are inclined to withhold my check if I omit to mention their product.

Not, mind you, that it is any chore for me to sing the praises of Personna, for it is a seemly blade that shaves you cleanly, a gleaming blade that leaves you beaming, a trouble-free blade that leaves you stubble-free, a matchless blade that leaves you scratchless. If you are tired of facial slump, if you are fed up with jowl blight, try Personna today. . . available both in double-edge style and Injector style. And if I seem a bit excessive in my admiration for Personna, I ask you to remember that to me Personna is more than a razor blade; it is also an employer.

But I digress. We were speaking of the memorable aspects of 1968 and high among them, of course, is the fact that in 1968 the entire House of Representatives stands for election. There will, no doubt, be many lively and interesting contests, but none, I'll wager, quite so lively and interesting as the one in my own district where the leading candidate is none other than Chester A. Arthur!

Mr. Arthur, incidentally, is not the first ex-president to come out of retirement and run for the House of Representatives. John Quincy Adams was the first. Mr. Adams also holds another distinction: he was the first son of a president ever to serve as president. It is true that Martin Van Buren's son, Walter "Blinky" Van Buren, was at one time offered the nomination for the presidency, but he, alas, had already accepted a bid to become Mad Ludwig of Bavaria. James K. Polk's son, on the other hand, became Salmon P. Chase. Millard Fillmore's son went into aluminum siding. This later became known as the Missouri Compromise.

* * *

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